

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 24BOSTON GLOBE  
14 October 1985

# Some scholars say they will shun CIA-financed Harvard conference

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE - Several scholars said yesterday they will not attend a conference on Islam at Harvard University this week because it is being funded by the CIA.

But the organizer of the conference, Professor Nadav Safran, said he had spoken to "nearly all" of the roughly two dozen active participants and that "the bulk of them are attending."

Harvard officials announced Friday that the conference would go on as scheduled after Safran, director of Harvard's Center for Middle East Studies, agreed to notify participants that the Central Intelligence Agency had contributed \$47,700 for the event.

The two-day conference, entitled "Islam and Politics and the Contemporary Moslem World," is scheduled to begin tomorrow.

"With that understanding, I have concluded the conference should proceed because the sponsor can be disclosed publicly and because the project does not appear to have been subject to inap-

propriate terms and conclusion," A. Michael Spence, Harvard's dean of faculty and arts and sciences, said in a statement Friday night.

But several scholars said yesterday they were concerned that they had not been told in advance that the conference had CIA backing. Several said they were worried that the CIA's sponsorship of the event could give the false impression that the participants were somehow linked to the intelligence agency.

"I think it's an important conference, but identified with the CIA, it's not something that I could attend," said John Voll, a professor of history at the University of New Hampshire.

Others reached by the Associated Press who said they would not attend the conference were John Esposito, a professor of religious studies at Holy Cross College; Phebe Marr, associate professor of history at the University of Tennessee; and Andrew Hess, a professor of diplomacy at Tufts

University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Leonard Binder, a professor of political science at the University of California at Los Angeles, said he had made a decision about attending the conference, but declined to say what his decision was.

Safran said yesterday he had spoken over the weekend to most of those who are scheduled to deliver papers or are formal "discussants" at the conference.

"While some have begged to be excused, the bulk of them are attending the conference," he said.